

# UNISON's NHS car parking Charter



## UNISON's NHS car parking charter should be used by branches to start negotiations with employers to abolish car parking charges for NHS staff.

The majority of NHS trusts in England charge staff who use hospital car parks, while most hospital car parks in Scotland and Wales are free. UNISON believes that staff should not be charged to park in the hospital car park when they are working. That is our goal, but where trusts can't abolish charges with immediate effect we want them to take practical steps to reduce the financial burden of parking costs for certain staff in the short term while they make plans to scrap the charges.

UNISON believes trusts should:

- commit to scrap parking charges for staff within two years and agree an implementation plan with UNISON
- only charge staff for the hours their vehicles are parked at the hospital
- guarantee a parking space for all staff with a valid parking permit
- provide emergency bays for on-call staff so they can park for free
- ensure that the cost of parking is affordable, and charges are consistent across all sites, by charging on a sliding scale so staff earning less pay less
- immediately give all staff with a disability free on-site parking
- immediately make on-site parking free for all staff working a night shift
- recognise the needs of staff whose choice about using their car is limited by the nature of their job or the availability of public transport and give these staff free parking
- in the short term use profits from staff parking charges improve the safety and security of car parks
- develop sustainable transport schemes like staff buses, pool cars for community staff, park and ride schemes and incentive for bicycle use and car sharing schemes.



**If you work for a trust that charges staff to park while they work use UNISON's charter to open a conversation with your employer about this unfair practice. The more employers we can get to change their policy the better it will be for staff working for the NHS in England. Get involved and help us get rid of parking charges.**

**For more information go to [unison.org.uk/hospitalparking](https://unison.org.uk/hospitalparking)**